An Independent Newspaper of Dem ecratic Principles, but not Controlled by any Set of Politicians or Manipulators; Devoted to Collecting and Publishing all the News of the Day in the most Interesting Shape and with the greatest possible Promptness, Accuracy and Impar tiality; and to the Promotion of Democratic Ideas and Policy in the affairs of Government, Society and Industry.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1884.

Amusements To-Day. Amisements To-Day.

Academy of Music-Variety. 1 P. M.

Bijon Opera House - Admis 2 and 8 P. M.

Beigion Penoramo Co. - 5515 st. and 10 ar.

Coming Theories an Admiss files. 2 and 8 P. M.

Consine-Prince Mathematem. 2 and 8 P. M.

Day's Theories—Lors on Cruteles. 2 and 8 P. M.

Edou Musics—Tablesis in Wall & I I A. M. to I P. M.

Fifth Avenue Theories—Manufale. 2 and 8 P. M.

Grand Opera House. Col. Saliers. 2 and 8 P. M.

Rester & Rialls—Vick Continual. 2 and 2 P. M.

Matropoliton Opera House. Der Freight. 8 F. M.

Matropoliton Opera House. Der Freight. 5 F. M. Metropolitan Opera House-Der Prophet & P. M. Mudison Square Theatre-Private Secretary. Michael Square Thentre-Trivite Secretary. 1.38
Nibbus Garden Februa 2 and 8 P. M.
People's I hentre-Called Back 8 P. M.
htnr Thentre-Mary Stuart 8 P. M.
htnndard I hentre-7 trip to Africa 2 and 8 P. M.
I hatin Thentre-Tis Begger Student Tand 8 P. M.
Tony Postor's Thentre-Variety 2 and 8 P. M. Union Square Theatre—Tirre Wives to One Husband, a Wallack's Theatre—Victor Burnet, a.P. M. MA Avenue Theatre—Frivality Dustice 2 and a P. M. 54th Street Theatre—Frivality 2 and a P. M.

A Simple Question.

The subjoined letter comes to us from a source entitled to high respect: Sin: In this morning's issue of The Sus I find the fo

lowing remarks in answer to a letter from Basa, J RESEAU: "We do not some with him that the new President

has been elected through frand. We do not think we ever witnessed a more fair and hopest election." you or do you not believe many of the negroes of the South, who here representation, were prevented from voting at the late Preside that election, by some means

or other, by the Democrats?
I would like to know precisely where Tau Sus stands on this question, which overshadows all others that arose during the late campaign; and I shall consider, if It is not answered in your journal, that your belief is it INQUINER AND CONSTANT READER. Union Caps. Dec. 22.

We answer frankly that we are not con vinced that any extraordinary or fliegal pressure was exercised by the Democrats upon the negroes of the Southern States to prevent them from voting at the late election, or to compel them to vote contrary to their wishes; and we see no reason to conclude that their votes were not east freely and fairly. Nor can any impartial man who examines the facts undertake to declare that the Democrats took any advantage of the situation and the relations of the two races in the South, which under the same circumstances the Republicans would not have taken and profited by.

The argument of our correspondent is precisely the same which a great many dishonest people and a great many deluded people have urged in justification of the freed of 1876 by which Mr. Tillban was deprived of the office of President after he had been elected, and Mr. HAVES was put into it after the people had rejected him. They said then, as our correspondent says now, that the negroes in the Southern States were not allowed to vote freely according to their own judgment; that they were overruled and intimidated by the Democrats; and that the election of Mr. Thiden was not valid for that reason. In 1876 this was either extreme folly or extreme knavery, and we do not think any better of it now than we did then,

In all popular elections there is a possibility that the himsenni and the weak voter may be deceived into giving a vote which he really does not intend; there is a possibility that the venal may be bribed to the same offeet, and also that the fearful and the foolish may be intimidated; but these considerations cannot be allowed to affect our judgment as to the final result of the election. It must stand as the law requires, and it can only be overthrown by legal means, in a legal manner, in accordance with the strict provisions of the law. All other modes of setting aside an election, and all such expressions against the result of an election as are employed by our correspondent, are unsound, improper, and inadmissible.

We repeat that we have never witnessed an election more fair or more honest than that of President of the United States which took place on the 4th of November last.

The Presidential Election.

The Board of State Canvassers have at length issued their official statement of the whole number of votes given in this State for electors of President and Vice-President at the last election, distinguishing the several counties in which the said votes were For the first time we are thus placed in possession of the exact vote for the People's and Prohibition candidates. In many of the counties where the anti-monopoly and greenback sentiment is strongest, the vote for electors on the People's ticket was unexpectedly small, while in adjacent and contiguous counties it was unexpectedly large. This affords a plausible ground for the claim put forth by friends of Gen. BUTLER that the votes which were east for him were in many instances counted for CLEVELAND. The electoral bailots for each were of the same size, and hore a general resemblance to each other, while those for BLAINE were much larger and thicker. Some such hypothesis seems to be necessary to

account for this result. The election of 18:4 has, however, been phenomenal in many respects. Party ties were less regarded than ever before. A full hundred thousand of Democratic voters may be set down as having east their ballets for BLAINE, and a somewhat larger number of Republicans unquestionably voted for CLEVE-LAND. The Prohibition vote of 25,000, which has increased from 1,500 four years ago, was substantially composed of Republienus. If we add the two together, the vote for BLAINE and the vote for Sr. John, and in like manner the votes received by CLEVE-LAND and those received by BUTLER, the majority of BLAINE over CLEVELAND in the State would be 6.835.

A more significant fact than even this of the ignoring of old party lines has likewise appeared. A very large number of voters reframed from voting at all. The entire onumeration of votes cast was 1,171,414. By the census of 1880 the population of the State aggregated 5,082,871, of whom 1,408,751 were returned as legal voters. A careful computation shows that by the same ratio of increase since that time the present number of the | developed, wheat grown near the foot of the

voting population exceeds 1,600,000. In the city of New York the total registration was 240,950, which is 10,871 more than actually went to the polls. These discrepancies have naturally been the subject of much comment. A quarter of a million of voters transferring their allegiance from their former party associations, and another quarter of a million remaining away from the polls altogether, indiente the deep-seated sentiment of our population in regard to the candidates nominated by the two leading national organizations. The names of scores of wellknown citizens are in our possession who explain their omission to vote exclusively on the ground of their dissatisfaction with the candidates of both the Republican and

Democratic parties. This movement of great bodies of voters from one side to the other baffled the calculations of the most experienced politiclans. When CLEVELAND was nominated, bets were freely offered at first that he would receive in this State a majority of 100,000. Presently it was found that numerous disaffeeted Democrats would cast their votes for BLAINE or for BUTLER. This led to reduction of the estimated majority, and thus the general opinion changed until the belief became prevalent that BLAINE would carry the State. Bets were even freely offered that his majority would be thirty, forty, and even fifty thousand. There had been no account made of the Prohibition vote, and it was imagined that the Staiwarts were acquiescing in the choice of the Republican managers.

The Oneida manifesto of Oct. 20 burst upon the political sky like the sudden irruption of a tornado. It put an end to the hopeful prospects of the Republican candidate. There was no clanger of trumpets nor loud vociferations, but silent voting, whose extent only the count could reveal. Contrast this with the clamor of the Independents. They loudly assert that they defeated BLAINE, and they doubtless expect their reward. They would have us believe that they elected CLEVE-LAND, as they had dictated his nomination Nevertheless it was not till the Stalwarts of Oneida openly disclosed their purpose that the result of the election appeared at all problematical.

The Oneida chiefs, in their declaration, took leave, to quote their own words, of their old and long-tried friends, from whom, on this single issue, they rejuctantly separated. They parted in grief and not in anger, admitting that those they left had like honesty of purpose as themselves, but insisting on

their own course as a matter of solemn duty. These stirring words furnish the key to the present attitude of the old Republican guard. They ask for nothing from the Democrats whom they have raised to power. On the contrary, they have already resumed their places in the Republican lines. But where, it may be asked, are the hundred thousand Democrats who gave their votes to BLAINE? And where will this mighty host stand at the fall election of 1885?

The Trial of Title to Office.

The decision of the Attorney-General of this State, refusing to bring a suit on the application of Mr. Joer, W. Mason to oust Mr. JOHN McClaye from the office of Police Commissioner in this city, is final and cannot be reviewed by the courts.

It may seem strange that the power finally to decide such a question should be vested in ar administrative officer. The reason, however, becomes plain when the true nature and purpose of the action are understood.

"The primary object of the action," said Judge WILLIAM F. ALLEN of the Court of Appenls, in the leading case on the subject. is to protect the public against the usurpation of office without legal authority; and the determination of the right of another to the same office is merely an incident to the action. and is permitted for the reason that ordinarily the judicial ouster of the incumbent establishes the right of the adverse claimant to the office."

The Attorney-General is to decide whether he will bring such a suit or not, according to his view of what the public interests require, and herespective of individual claims. Formerly he was obliged to obtain the consent a time when the courts could compel him to institute the proceeding, or when they could sit in review of his refusal to do so.

It may be said, as has been suggested in some reported cases, that this power is liable to abuse. An apt answer is found in the langauge used by Mr. Justice Learned of Albany in deciding the case of the People against FARESHILD in 1876. "This must always be possible," said Justice Learned, when a matter is left to the discretion of an officer, as it often is. Far greater evils would arise if the courts were to assume the exercise of a discretion not intrusted to them, or if they were to allow any individual whatever to compel the commencement and proscention of actions of quo warranto against officers of the State."

It would seem that Mr. Mason has no recourse except to swear at the Attorney-General; and of course he will not do this, because it would not be right to swear. It is better to be a good man than to be

The Hudson Bay Expedition.

The Canadian Government is maintaining this winter on the shores of Hudson Strait and Hudson Bay seven stations, with four men in each station. These parties are taking scientific observations, noting the conditions and state of the ice, and securing other data which will enable the Dominion Government authorities to determine how long during the summer season Hudson Bay may be employed as an outlet to Europe for the products of the western provinces of Canada. It is expected that these stations, which have been established at a cost of about \$100,000, will be maintained for three or four years, and that they will complete the survey of the bay and strait, and of the most important harbors and rivers.

The evidence of the Hudson Bay Company and of many whalers shows that from twelve to fourteen weeks of navigation can be depended upon, and we have no facts to show that the water is not open for a longer time. Lieut, Gordon's parties have been despatched to obtain the thorough information about these waters that is desirable, in view of the fact that the western provinces believe that the Hudson Bay route is the best for their wheat, and are clamoring for its development.

It is only about 500 miles from Lake Winnipeg to Churchill harbor, on the west coast of Hudson Bay. This harbor can be entered by the largest ships at all stages of the tide, and is the natural tide-water terminus for a railroad from Manitoba. Competent engineers reported in 1881 that the country between Winnipog and Fort Churchill afforded an easy and an inexpensive route for a railroad. Two companies have received charters from the Canadian Parliament for building ratironds and otherwise opening the route from the Northwest Territory to Europe by way of Hudson Bay. A considerable system of inland navigation centres in Lake Winnipeg, and if the Hudson Bay route is

Rocky Mountains may be taken to Europ

with only 500 miles of land portage Dr. Robert Bell of the Canadian Geological Survey, who has spent six years around the coasts of Hudson Bay, says that the bay itself never freezes, except close along the shores, and that the portion which would be most frequented by shipping is entirely without shoals, reefs, or islands. Churchill harbor does not freeze over until November. The information most needed relates to the ice conditions in Hudson Strait, and for this reason six of the stations are located this winter along the strait, and only one on the

bay at Churchill harbor. This proposed route to Europe is almost certain to be opened in the near future, and the resources of this great sea, haif as large as the Mediterranean, and of the shores along its southern portion are destined to attract the attention they deserve. We had little correct knowledge of this region until Canada recently sent geologists and surveyors there. They have brought back reports that the bay is rich in oil-yielding animals, that its fisheries should be examined and that the region has large resources in the soil, timber, and minerals of some portions of the coasts. Dr. Bell asserts that to the south and west of James Bay there is a large tract in which much of the land is good and the climate well adapted for stock and dairy farming. He has also found on different parts of the coast great supplies of iron ore, promising quantities of galena traces of gold, silver, and copper, and good building stones, clays, and limestones on both sides of the bay. In his opinion, its minerals may prove to be the greatest of the resources of the Hudson Bay region.

A Grab for Public Buildings.

Next to the River and Harbor steal, which is annually logroiled through Congress, and is uniformly increased in the Senate, the grab for public buildings stands in the front rank of legislative plunder. The same methods are employed in both cases. Senators and Representatives who want Custom Houses, Post Offices, courts, or other buildings erected in favorite cities or towns, make up a pool and agree to support each other.

It is usual to spread this jobbery over as many States as practicable for the plain purpose of securing the largest number of votes If only a limited portion of the proposed bills should pass at one session-as happened last year-the members of the favored States seem to be bound by the masonry of the system to help the others at the next test with as much zeal and good faith as if they were still directly Interested.

There are bills now pending before the House aggregating \$6,327,400 for public buildings which are scattered through twenty-nine States and one Territory. They were reported from the regular committee at the last ession, and are either on the calendars or before the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union. A combination will be made to press these bills toward the close of this Congress. But if the River and Harbor job should come in the way, as it did inst summer, then another mode will be adopted for bleeding the Treasury.

At the last session none of these bills regularly reported in the House were passed, because it was in the power of an unsatisfied minority to defeat them all by parliamen tary obstructions in the closing days. The friends of these schemes were too shrewd to

put themselves in the power of their enemies. The combination had other resources for this emergency. The Senate added a million and a half of dollars to the Sundry Civil act for buildings in twenty-three States and one Territory, exclusive of the District of Columbia. As that bill passed the House, it aggre gated less than twenty-one millions. Senate raised it to twenty-five millions. But after a long struggle in the conference committee it was finally reduced to twenty-two millions three hundred thousand dollars, and mainly for this item of buildings.

The present majority in the House is not to be relied on for retrenchment and reform, though it is ostensibly Democratic. Members were elected in the tidal-wave of 1882 who had no expectation of being returned again of the Supreme Court before he could begin in a normal state of politics, and hence an action of this kind, but such consent is no | their sense of responsibility has been limited from the outset, and they have discogarded that discipline without which no legislative body can be successfully managed. But for this impediment, the appropriations for the current fiscal year would have been largely reduced. As it is, they include nearly fourteen millions for rivers and harbors, against none for the last fiscal year; an in crease of four millions and a half for the Post Office, caused by the reduction of postage; a million for the New Orleans Exposition; a million for the Mississippi River improvement; half a million for Washington sewerage, and other costly extras, none of which appear in the appropriations for 1883-84.

If Thurlow Weed Were Here.

A great variety of information, such as it is, springs from interested quarters on the Senatorial question, but only dense darkness prevails where the public would like to see at least a little light. We hear much concerning what the numerous candidates for Senator are doing, but we learn nothing on the far more important subject of what the ninety-two Republicans in the Legislature will do about it when their turn comes.

The advocates of ARTHUR, EVARTS, MOR-TON, HISCOCK, RUSSELL, CHOATE, and the rest of the aspirants are rushing to and fro through the State explaining the plans and purposes of their principals, while the Senators and Assemblymen who have the disposition of the question absolutely in their own hands look on in silence. The few words that have dropped from five or six of them are even more ominous than silence, for they indicate that not a handful of the ninety-two will pledge their votes to anybody or make up their minds on the subject till the Legislature is organized and they

have had time to carefully survey the field. However, Gen. SHARPE, Chairman WAR-REN, Senator MILLER, Mr. PLATT, and a score or two more, who are doing the travelling of the canvass, will at least know several members of the Legislature by sight when they reach the capital.

How the party must miss THURLOW WEED In the days of his strength he stood ready to save the minor managers of the Whigs and Republicans a world of worry and work in emergencies like the present.

Why Can't the Fight Go On ?

The Hon, WILLIAM E. CHANDLER has lately served notice upon Mr. B. F. Jones and others of Mr. BLAINE's friends to call off their dogs. Mr. CHANDLER intimates with his usual clearness that otherwise there will be trouble. We observe with regret that his warning is likely to have altogether too much effect. Our Republican brethren don't seem inclined to draw him out. They are afraid that further hostilities between Mr. JONES and Mr. CHANDLER might prove disastrous to somebody.

Mr. BLAINE's friends continue to abuse the President, but they seek to show that he is lukewarm as a protectionist rather than that he was lukewarm as a supporter of Mr. BLAINE. They are sure that Mr. ARTHUR didn't strain himself to help Mr. BLAINE, but they

feel that it will be discreet not to excite Mr. CHANDLER, since that bold tar has announced his intention of shivering his timbers and raising the biggest kind of a hurrah's nest if President ARTHUR'S course during the campaign isn't spared by Mr. BLAINE's people. A continuation of the row between

CHANDLER and JONES is not desired by Mr. BLAINE. It wouldn't conduce to harmony. But perish harmony! What is harmony to fun? The Republican party wouldn't be in so healthy a condition as it is if it didn't have a little sociable spat once in a while to improve its circulation. Besides, it has no particular use for harmony till next year, when it will try again to elect a Governor of this State.

Seven different lists for the new Cabinet were sent by seven Western and Southern editors to the Cincinnati Enquirer, and names of Morrison, Carlisle, and Hunddidn't appear in any of them. That will seem rather strange to some people.

We confess we cannot account satisfactorily for the following expression of our esteemed contemporary the Albany Evening Journal, in the middle of an able essay favoring the election of Our Own Evants to the Senate: "A defeated party has no honors to bestow."

Interpreted literally, that is too much non ense to be found in such an intelligent journal as our Albany contemporary. What a ridiculous idea it would be to deciare that because a party had just met with partial defeat, no distinction it could offer in the shape of a post of great power and dignity would carry the accustomed honor with it! That won't do. Unless our contemporary says what it means, some will read the sentence in question as though it were written:

A defeated party has no honor to bestow, on the Hon William Marwett Evants.

If ABTHUR can get the Spanish, Dominican and Nicaraguan treaties confirmed, his Administration will be remembered for something else than stylish pan aloons—Galvesiun Daily News.

If for no other reason than to correct this or ror, our esteemed contemporary should take down its carefully preserved files of THE SUN and learn from an examination of their columns, as well as from this paragraph, that the correct word is trousers. Then it will be in a much better condition to criticise President ARTHUR'S Administration. In asserting that THE SUN advocates a re-

turn to the Issue of State bank currency, the Chicago Inter-Ocean says that which is not. We have, it is true, pointed out that the laws of the several States afford, or can be made to afford, all the needful facilities and safeguards for organizing sound banks of deposit and discount, but we have also pointed out that the course of events is bearing us toward period "when the only currency of the country will be United States and United States paper money." said, again, that as fast as the banks go out of existence, "private banks and State banks that issue no circulating notes will take their places and fulfil their functions. We do not see how language can be made to express more plainly our bellef that State bank circulation as well as national bank circulation belongs to an order of things that A passing The Inter-Ocean further quotes from the Westminster Review a passage relating to what English writers are in the habit of calling token coins, but it omits to heed the warning of the Review not to confound these coins with the tradesmen's tokens which we classed with shinplasters. Let the writer in the Inter-Occasional read our articles more carefully, particularly that on "Bank Notes and the Banking Busi ness" in THE SUN of Dec. 17.

Nothing can be more unjustifiable than the idea of paying Mr. Russell Stungts \$5,000 a year as Secretary of the Civil Service Advisory Board for this city.

The Philadelphia Press holds that the recent letter of Mr. Evants "Is plain and dignified, like its author." 'Tis true he is dignified, but he cannot with truth be called plain Mr. Evants is a very handsome man, and his beauty is of the noble intellectual kind.

Of the Illinois Democrats who, owing to the uncertain complexion of their Legislature hope to succeed Gen. LOGAN in the Senate Br'er Moraison seems to have the lead, We don't know why one of the two eminent tariff reformers reflected to the next House should wish to Morrison; and yet Gen. PALMER might sit more comfortably in a Senatorial chair.

Let the comical newspapers, and their poet especially, take notice. There is one joke which they have worn out. Besides, it is not true. The irate father does not go for the tardy lover to drive him away with the kicks of his heavy boots. This joke ought to have a rest.

Veterans and Civillans.

To the Editor of the Sun-Sir: In your paper of this date you say: Next, if administrative reform is to follow the new President must use a free hand and an unrelenting will in turning or all the old tenants of office who are not indispensable all the old tenants of office who are not indispensably necessary through peculiar competency and efficiency, and in filing their places with Democrats who possess the indispensable qualifications."

Do you mean to say that President-elect Cleveland, when he is insugurated, should disregard that have of concress that gives no diers and sallors in the late was the preference over civilians?

Please let the public understand whether or not the editor of Tau Six is in favorish kicking out of the public emission of the familiar there was of the rebellion in order to make room for the hundry and thirsty hurde of spoismen, and oblige BROOKLYS, Dec. 23.

We do not wish or expect that the President should disregard any law of Congress, or that he should in any way overlook the just claim of those who have risked their lives and their health in the defence of the Union. But neithe should he, in our opinion, disregard the duty of reforming the Government and dismissing from office every unworthy and incompetent person; and when they are dismissed he should fill their places with Democrats,

Secretary Teller to Betire from Politics. WASHINGTON. Dec. 24.-Secretary Teller has d a member of Congress that he is not in the Co Senatorial fight, and intends to withdraw from office and politics, and that this decision has been reached be ing that he could be elected Senator from Colorade if he would only say the word.

Howgate's Fresh Trail. From the Omaha Herald.

Detectives Springer and Bassett, the men who are bunting for Howgaie, passet through Omaha yesterday, on their way to Iowa from Nebraska City They have been investigating matters around Dewitt where Neilie Burrill's family live, and are positive th Howgate was in that vicinity last fall. It is also know that he was in Nebraska City from the 12th to the 20th September, arranging with A. S. Cole, a lawyer that town, for the collection of his penimican claim against the Government. From Nebraska City he wen to the western part of the State for a few days, return ing to the former town and crossing into lows, where he is now supposed to be living in a little town less the 100 miles from the river. One of officials stationed in Nebraska says: "It is not my business to capture Howgate, and I don't

propose to worry about it. I am only instructed to use ordinary means to apprehend him, and for that reason I don't think the authorities at Washington care to see

Boston Opinions Respecting an Artistic Ques-

From the Frening Transcript. Have no skirt at all and we will willingly subnit, then the line of beauty from armost to angle is un-troken. But the skirt breaks this line, and when it is are broken the movements of the leg above the kne scome ungraceful and hideous to see. For sheer head knee as it did in Tagions's and Panny historic down to the knee as it did in Tagions's and Panny historic day - but should be so filled underneath with tulle, or tariatan, or gauze, or whatever the my elections substance is cal-

Insanity Reported at the West.

From the Chicago Daily News.

A member of Col. Manieson's opera company has become mane. Several officer improvements in the company have also been made intelly.

MID-WEEK ECHOES.

" Merry Christmas!" is to-day the friendly greeting all over the civilized world, and the day should really be the merriest of the year. even apart from the religious origin of its observance. It should come upon us with downy snow, bright ringing of bells, and a healthy, bracing air. It should cose all the troubles of the past year, and have nothing but cheerful promises to give for the one coming. Every hard and bad thing should be forgotten and forgiven, and nothing but bright and smiling faces should be seen. But alas! all this should be, but is not. We have all grown a little older. most of us have grown a little more infirm. good many have increased their speck of sad experiences, and probably all have become poorer. But never mind that. The country is a great one, and its future immense. have a pretty hard job on hand just now, but let us try to make the best of it. We are not the only ones that have suffered. A great many countries and individuals are much worse off than we are. We have no Anarchists, no Nihilists, no dynamiters yet, thank heaven. We feel poor simply because we thought some time ago that we were inexhaustibly rich. We overproduced everything. overbuilt everything, and overspeculated in everything. Things have to adjust themselves ow, and, as the country is very young and impressionable the adjustment process is going on faster, and is felt more keenly than would have been the case in a more conservaive and older community. There is nothing to be afraid of. Everything will straighten itself in a little while, and there is no reason for making long faces to-day. Women and children don't like to see them, and of all days of the year it is their day. Let them have the full benefit of it.

Such a resolution is all the more sensible as neither your women nor your children would believe that you are as hard up as you say you are. They see just as rich goods, just as sweet candies, and just as bright flowers as ever all around them. The shops are just as crowded as ever, and everybody seems or pretends to be buying. So it is of no earthly use to try to persuade those dependent upon you that you are he only person that cannot buy too. Buy all they want and charge it to-morrow to your profit and loss account. If you have to burst by the first of January, the little Christmas tem cannot hurt your creditors much, while if you have anything left at the close of the year of grace 1884 you are bound to be merry and enerous, for but a very small percentage of humanity is in the same position. Resides, it s well to make a big loss—you will take better care of what is left. Remember the old story of the one-legged veteran of the wars of Napolean I. He lost his leg at the battle of Borodino, and, thirty or ferty years later, tried to demonstrate to a fellow invalid that they were the better off for having only one leg; for now, if they had to march to Russia once more, they could not have both legs frozen, for they could make a fire with the wood of one to keep the

other warm. The week that is still left of the old year will probably be hard for a great many peo-ple. Liquidations will be numerous, and shrewd business people say that failures will be unusually large. A great deal of money nust come out on Jan. 1 in dividends and inerest. But, in the first place, both will be deaulted upon in some cases, and, in the second. most of the money that will thus come out will go to stop old leaks. None of it will make anyody richer. It will only help to straighten hings out.

Wall street may possibly continue to appear is the biggest sufferer, for every transaction here is reported on the tape, while no one ever hears at what loss this or that merchant or manufacturer has liquidated. The boys at the Stock Exchange were hugely enjoying heir coarse horseplay yesterday. But they will be all business again to-morrow. The passing of the Lake Shore dividend yesterday norning began already to show its effect. The Reading seems to be doomed, and if that goes down the Erie will never find the money it is so much in need of, and will probably follow suit. The Northwestern roads continue to lose heavily and to be threatened by their local Legislatures. St. Paul, according to the knowing ones, seems to be in a particularly bad fly. There is a very fishy smell about its financial condition, and the next edition of Poor's Manual will probably surprise everybody by the immense increase in its bonded indebtedness. Old Alexander Mitchell and his chums pretend that all the current reports are not worth denying. But that does prove anything. They know that unlike the leave it, but that is his affair. Certainly, the rooster, a man does not look his best when he Senate would be the gainer in welcoming Col. is crowing. Besides, their nests are well warmed and what do the stock of their company is selling at 195 at 75, or at 25? Some men who know a thing or two about the condition of Northwestern rallroad affairs seem to be willing to bet that the St. Paul stock will sell at the last flyure before another Christmas comes around.

There are several other corporations reported to be in a similar unenviable position, but there is no use of extending the list of unpleasant communications, especially on a day when everybody should be merry, and consequently read and certainly write as little as possible. Of foreign news there is but little to comment upon, and what there is of it is bad.

Centralization Not a Source of Strength. From the Hon, John T. Hoffman's Address before the Con-

I wish to say a few words to those who are onging for what they call a strong Government. We must beware how we draw the life-blood from the exfremuties to the heart. Congestion is not strength, it is

France has for centuries been a Government of complete centralization. It was such under its kings; such under both the emperors; is such to-day under what is called the republic. The provinces and municipalities are all ruled from the capital, not by their own people. We have Americans who travel abroad, look only at the smooth polished surface of French affairs, and contrast this with the state of things here, unfavorably to oureives. Give to such men clean streets and a good cat service, and they will give in exchange free speech, a free press, and a free country. These are the men who admired the strong Government of the second Napoleon. The strength of his Government was suddenly put to the test when the German army crossed the French boundary. The so-called strong Government had been commary, resting so long upon a people unaccustomed to self-reli-ance, that almost at the first touch of the hand of the enemy the whole structure fell the flames from the publie buildings of Paris, fired by its own citizens, lighting

up the ruins

We, on the contrary, when our great war broke out, We, on the contrary, when our great war broke out, had a central dovernment very limited in apparent power, imited to the care of a few things. It had never meddled with the local affairs of the people. It proved to be the strongest dovernment in the world. It was backed and braced by a self-reliant people, trained to take care of themselves. It was strong because it had not by absorbing all power to itself weakened the penple. They had been left to govern themselve in their own neighborhoods. When, early in the war, the central Government was cut off from communication with the country, there was no despuir; no cossation of preparalons to meet the emergencies of the times. Those were made just as rapidly as if under dovernment orders; committees of citizens raised millions of money, and sent forward men and munitions of war. The State and county and city and town authorities did not lose their vigor because for a time they could not hear from Washington. When communication with the capital was re-sumed, the Government found that the people under land of their local authorities, without orders from the central Government, had done just what it would have asked to be done. So all through the war, the work of filling up the armies, and of providing means for much of the expenses, was done by town meetings and the local authorities. If these local authorities had been arlocal authorities. If these local authorities had been ac-customed to receive instructions from the central (for-eroment, had been its closes, agents instead of the rhoses agents of their heighbors, they would mave been into protecting do what they did may would have been the protecting of the lesson of the war is their less of the original of the descent of the war is the less of relation of the Jeffersonian theory makes the strongest covernment.

A Queer Case in London. From the Truth

The other day a curious case came before Mr. Image clinits, where as far as I have seen as not been repetited in any of the paper and a survey of the found of the wife Mrs. Found, A sentence called found ins wife Mrs. Found, A sentence called a senter property to left a win by which the length of the winter property in left a win by which the left who was shown as Mrs. Jarkson became his selection and the same person and the question arose he called middle same person and the question arose he called the his selection interest but it seems a most extraordinary thing that a man cound got city lead a completely dust exist chee undetected but that is said and of the case were that ence ministered, but that he should abused deceive seif into beseving that he was two different persons

THE REBELLION IN ECUADOR.

Sen. Alfaro Captures a Government Steamer with Troops-400 Mon Killed. PANAMA, Dec. 16 .- News has been received rom Ecuador to the effect that a general rising had been arranged for the 13th ult., and that it was in anticipation of this movement that Gen. Alfaro left this bay in the Alajuela. Scattered bands have taken possession of several towns. and in some instances fighting occurred, attended by loss of life. In one of these fights, said to have occurred on the slope of the Cotopaxi volcano, some twenty or thirty men were killed, and the Government force was compelled to retreat. The coast robels were more unfortunate, After the fight in Tumaco between the Alajuela and the Nueve de Julio Alfaro effected a landing on the Ecuadorian coast. On Nov. 30 he endeavored to capture and hold Portoviejo, but was defeated by the Government forces and compelled to seek safety in flight. Gen, Alfaro then returned to the Alajuela, leaving his men to make for the interior to join the parties in revolt there.

On the Stn he moved toward Bahia, and when off Las Cruziths fell in with the Government steamer Huacho. He steamed alongside of her, and, after a heavy fire, carried her by boarding. She was full of troops, to whom her bare hull offered no protection, and it is said that at least 400 men were killed or wounded. These belonged to the Government party. While the victors were examining their prize, the Nueve de Julio, another Government vessel, put in an appearance. The Huacho was useless for fighting, and the Alajuela was damaged and her Captain dead. It was then determined to run her ashore, take out what could be removed in a hurry, and burn her. This plan was followed, and the Nueve de Julio proceeded to Bahia with her crippled consort.

Letters from Quito say: This capital is a veritable Bahylon. No one appears to comprehend the political sentiments of his neighbor, and the panic in the Government files is increasing daily, Gen, Victor Proafso and a number of other notables have been arrested on suspicion of sympathizing with the revolutionists. The prisons at Guavaquil are full of suspects, among whom are Senor Paster Intriago and a number of other notables have been arrested on suspicion of sympathizing with the revolutionists. The prisons at Guavaquil are full of suspects, among whom are Senor Paster Intriago and a number of his workmen, who are accused of having given a canoe to Marcoa Alfaro to snable him to go up the river Guavas. Vica-President Augustin Guerrero, who is in power in Quito, issued a procicamation on Nov. 19, calling upon the people to support him." compelled to retreat. The coast rebels were more unfortunate. After the fight in Tumaco

PREPARED FOR A STRIKE

Locomotive Engineers Trying to Prevent a Reduction on the Gould Roads. Sr. Louis, Dec. 24.-The Grievance Comnittee of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers of the Gould system, who have been in secret session here several days, have sent for Chief Engineer Arthur of Cleveland, and it is reported that a strike is contemplated. For some time it has been rumored that a general 10 per cent, reduction on the Gould lines would be enforced on Jan. 1, and this meeting is bebe enforced on Jan. 1, and this meeting is being held to prevent that reduction, and also to secure the restoration of the wages of engineers on some of the roads to the old figures before the reduction several weeks ago. The trips of some of the passenger engineers were shortened so that they could make only \$120 a month, whereas they had been making from \$150 to \$180. J. H. Fitzgerald of Sedalia, who is Chairman of the Grievance Committee, was seen this afternoon. He said that the committee had telegraphed for Chief Engineer Arthur, and that they would not stand a cut.

We are prepared to meet the Gould system or any other system on that subject, he added.

"Would a strike follow a reduction?"

That is our private business. Wait and see."

That is our private business. Wait and See."

"Does your authority extend so far?"

"Whatever this committee does will be followed by all the members of our organization and be unbeld by every other one in the United States, Canada, or Mexico. There are between 16,000 and 18,000 active members. Our action is final and without appeal. In case we went out the other organizations would support us."
The committee have had an interview with Vice-President Hoxic of the Gould system, but are not satisfied with the result, Mr. Hoxic not giving them the assurance they wanted, either that the long runs of the passenger engineers would be restored or that no further cuts would be made. To a reporter Mr. Hoxic denied all knowledge of the reported contemplated cut, and said that none had been ordered or was to be ordered so far as he knew.

Christmas. ea with sparkling sea rejoices, land with land keeps tide of mirth.

lymns of love and holy hush of worship nil the happy All men's hearts are fain to praise Him, all men's kness are bent to pray

For blessing to the Son of God, Christ Jesus, born to-day The gray, and earth lay hopeless, crushed under ar

When the Lord of heaven and earth came down to claim His heritage. The purpled Casars knew Him not, and the great of the

earth disdained The King who brought the words of peace where wrath

and ruin reigned. But the old bright thrones were shattered, and the hoar, vain gods grew mute,

earth was made sweet with the blossom, and whole with the mystic fruit That sprang, when the fulness of time was come, from

Jesse's sacred rod. And the darkness of death was thrilled with light from the face of the living God.

Star in the East, that sets not in the surge of the restless years. To the haven of hope safe beaconed by Thee the helms-

man steers; By Thee the eyes of the blind have sight and the feet of the blind are led,

And death is made clear to the living, and life made sure to the dead. Son and Father and Man and God, for our sake

sacrificed. Brother in heart with suffering men, all-gracious name of Christ, shield from sin and doubt and danger, Guide of all our

mortal way. For Thy birth, fulfilled with love and awe, mankind keeps feast to-day!

A Song of Christmas Morn. Crisp, crisp and cold the air, and sparkling clear the

morning:

White lined the purple clouds, and white the frosted leaves: White sheeted sleep the fields, and ley fringe, adorning

Gems all the sleeted boughs and gleams along the enves. Honk, honk), the slanting geese trail southward high

o'erhead (Crack, crack), the frozen walks reecho to the tread

And the bells, hear how they clang!

How they fill the air with dances. How they ring as ne'er they rang, How they sing as ne'er they sang. Sweet accords and dissonances! Hear their Christmas utterances! Hear them call from out the steeple:

" Come ye happy Christian people. (Clang, cling), and carels sing, (Ding, dony), sing a Christmas song. For on this day, beyond all other days, All men are friends, and friends are all sincere; And hearty greatings framed in cordial phrase

Cement unew the friendships of the year." So sing the changing bells. And their jungling music swells And the old sweet story tells.

The sun climbs up and gilds the floating clouds. And smiles upon the ley lakes and streams, And scatters diamonds o'er their snowy shrouds, And wakes the sleeping world from happy dreams. Now shricking sledges grinding through the streets, Bear straining hampers choked with Christmas cheer,

And huge brown bundles, rich in Christmas treats.

What matter! Christmas comes but once a year. And laughing children, tippeted and warm, Assail each passer by with cunning thrift; And eager voiced they spring their shrill slarm,

And eager handed claim their Christmas Gift! And the bells are swinging, swinging, And their Christmas carol ringing (Clang, cling), they grandly sing, (Ding, dong), their Christmas song.

Senatore whose Temper is mounted over the Holiday Recess. WASHINGTON, Dec. 24 .- If one meets a par-

ticularly sulky old person who glowers darkly

at the mention of the Christmas recess, he is

pretty sure to turn out to be a United States

Senator. The worst cut up about it are Sena-

tors Logan and Beck. Although Senator Beck is a true blue Scotch Presbyterian, one of the kind Senator Vance describes as having been dipped in an indigo pot in early infancy, he doesn't believe in free will and election where the House is concerned. He thinks that giddy branch of the Legislature ought to be made once and for all to cease paying its disrespects to the august Senate. Besides, he would not have minded heading off Mr. Randall in his proposed visit to Kentucky, and in the short session the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee has to stick close to his desk, and never go to see anything or anybody outside of Washington. But when the House passed a temporary Navai bill and then adjourned, and the Senate had the responsibility of passing that bill or leaving the navy without money on the 1st of January, it dawned upon them that the enemy had turned their flank, hence these tears. It was very adroit of the Republicans to appoint Senator Reck one of the conferrees on the Navai bill. He was originally much opposed to the steel cruisors, but after the Senate had spoken he considered that he had his instructions, and proceeded to lock horns with Mr. Randall with much alacrity and determination. Senator Beck is the most obstinate old fellow alive, and he rather likes a deadlock. He goes around rubbing his hands and declaring that there isn't a particle of backdown in him; no, sir; not where principle is concerned; no backdown in me, sir.

Senator Sherman has lately been sat upon and denounced for a very curlous transaction, which dragged the Republicans in the Senate out of an usity quagmire. When the Mexican Pension bill was passed last session, the Republicans in the Senate added an amendment to it giving pensions to all men who served in the Union army. They never expected or desired that this would pass. Their object was to have the Democratic House defeat it, and publised in the Bometratic House defeat it, and publicans on the Republicans by letting them go before the country demanding the frightfully enormous sum necessary to carry the bill into effect. Then they slyly reminded Senators the would be passed, and they would turn the tables on the Republicans by letting them go before the country demanding the frightfully enormous sum necessary to carry the bill into effect. Then they slyly reminded Senators the legal of the senator bold enough the necessit to the august Senate. Besides, he would not have minded heading off Mr. Randall in his

FAILURE OF WARD, STANTON & CO. The Shipbuilders who Built Iron Ferryboats

NEWBURGH, Dec. 24 .- Ward, Stanton & Co., steamboat builders, made an assignment today to James Beggs of James Beggs & Co., 9 Dey street, New York. One hundred and saventy-five men are thrown out of work. The firm hope to go on with their business as soon as the inventory is completed. The troubles

as the inventory is completed. The troubles began with the large fire of two years ago, when the firm lost \$50,000 over the insurance. The liabilities of the firm are estimated at \$100,000. The assets will not be known until an inventory is made.

Among the vessels built by the firm were four fron ferryboats for the West Shore Company, six iron boats for the Hoboken Ferry Company, two for Homer Ramsdell, James Gordon Bennett's yacht. Namouna. Dien Boucicault's Shaughraun, Pierre Lorillard's Radha, and other well-known yachts. They have launched about twenty boats yearly for the last six years, and have employed between 300 and 500 men until the last few months. Two of the Hoboken Company's iron ferryboats are yet unfinished. The firm began business in 1872.

...It is noticed in England that pawnprokers scarcely ever become bankrupt.

-A salmon weighing eighty pounds was recently taken from the river Tay, in Scotland. The heaviest Tay fish on record weighed seventy pounds -Numbers of sheep and pigs are being killed in sections of Dakota by wolves, packs of which

have been prowling about in the vicinity of Bismarch -The cost of cholera may be estimated by the fact that the receipts of the northern Italian rail-roads in September (though the lines are ninety inlies longer than last year) will be \$320,000 less than in 1883. -Mr. Ernest Hartley Coleridge has under

taken to prepare the biographical memoir of his grand-father, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and for this purpose is now arranging family papers and letters which have not hitherto been published -Judge Wheeler of Jamaica, Vt., recently removed to Brattleboro, twenty six miles taking favorite cat. The cat the next day returned to its old home, but finding the doors and windows closed it re-

turned to the family in Brattleboro. -For killing a puppy dog, a two-and-ahalf-year old child was sentenced in a Vicksburg, Miss. court, a few days ago, to pay a fine of \$150 or undergo an imprisonment of thirty days. The fine was paid, and the child taken home by its father.

-A Nevada ranchman has a herd of hybrid cattle, crossed between the male buffalo and the domestic cow. They are very hardy, and thrive where other cattle would starve. Their beef is excellent, aut yarn has been spun from their hair. -Capt. Chetwynd, R. A., Chief Inspector

of Lifeboats in England, is of opinion that no practical advantage can arise from the use of oil in the boats of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, and he does not recommend that it should be applied to them. -A recent visitor to the Grande Chartreuse says that the fiqueurs are not made in the monsstery

but in a large stone edifice in the village. Four monks are regularly employed in the manufacture. On New Year's Day each monk receives a bottle of liqueur. -At a recent sale of fans in Madrid one of ivory, painted by Wattean, which formerly belonged to the Princess Adelaide of Savoy, fetched \$750. A fan painted by Boucher sold for \$930; and another, painted

-There is an unpublished legend to the effect that on the one evening passed at Craigenputtock by Emerson in 1833, Carlyle gave him a pape, and taking one himself, the two sat silent until midnight and then parted, shaking hands with congratulations on the pleasant evening they had passed. -The State of Massachusetts is having a

very accurate topographical survey made, which, when completed, will be one of the most elaborate and minute State surveys ever made. It is said that had a good topographical map of the State been in existence t would have saved, since the first ratiroads were bu \$20,000,000 in their construction alone, by indicating where the most feasible routes lay. -Last Tuesday was an eventful day in the

life of a Leavenworth, Kansas, man, who had previously borns a good reputation. At 9 in the morning he was recognized as an ex-convict. Just after dimer he slipped and fell into a tank of boiling water. At 3 o'clock, when he was hovering between life and death from his terrible scalds, a Sheriff arrived with a warrant for his arrest as a highway robber. He died at sundown.

-The oration which Mr. Robert C. Winthrop was to deliver at the dedication of the Washington onument is stated to be completed, and in case of his inability to deliver it, it will, perhaps, be read gentleman selected for that purpose. The fact that he made the formal address at the laying of the corner stone of the monument in 1846 increases the disappoint-ment springing from his seeming inability to respond to the part assigned him for the 21st of February.

-Dr. Schliemann's house at Athens is said to be the most costly in the city, though he calls it a cottage. It is an imposing, square mansion of the bes-Pentelle marble crowned with marble statues of the whole Olympic bost, in groups of two or three. The front has a deep portico set to each story, while the plain moulding between the two stofies contains, in large tiresk letters, the inscription. "Hon Marathon." The interior consists of lefty, spacions rooms with martile floors and collings frescoed richly with illustrations from Greenan mythology. Part of the collection of antiquities dug up at Trovis within this marsis cottage," the remainder being in Germans

-A correspondent of the Et. Paul Pionecr-Press relates that a farmer entered a store in a baketa town the other day to settle for a least of wheat, and made a number of purchases among which were several pounds of very ordinary butter and three or four dozen packed eggs. The writer majnired if this sort of thing was a common practice of the farmers in the vicinity. "Farmers," remied the merchant, contempted only. Why, we haven't got twenty real farmers this county. They are all nothing but wheat raisers, and that is a long way from being a farmer. A large number of farmers in Dakota, who own whole quarter sections of land, seldom have a drop house, and the butter they eat is bought at the near sistore. They don't even keep a cow or piz, or try to race vegetables enough to provide for the winter."